

# County of San Bernardino

## GENERAL PLAN



### VISION 2025

San Bernardino County is the largest county in the contiguous United States. With over 20,000 square miles, the County contains a variety of landforms and climatic conditions, spanning vast deserts, mountains up to 11,500 feet high and the San Bernardino Valley. The geographic and biological diversity of the County is reflected in the character and lifestyles of its many distinct, unique communities. Although these communities may be distinguished by geography, environment, natural resources, heritage or lifestyle, they share many concerns and common goals for the future of the County.

This General Plan recognizes the unique assets of individual communities and will guide the County decision-making so that we may build on those assets, as well as protect and enhance the quality of life throughout the County. As a foundation for the goals and policies of the General Plan, this Vision Statement identifies ideal conditions to work toward during the next 20 years, as expressed in the following desires for the future of where we live, work and play in San Bernardino County.

### WHERE WE LIVE

Our County offers residents a wide range of housing opportunities. Residents may choose to live in traditional urban neighborhoods with a greater array of services and amenities. Individuals may also choose a more “rural” lifestyle, often with a small-town atmosphere, room to breathe and opportunities for self-reliance and independence.

#### **Our vision for the future of the County includes:**

- Continued “rural” character in many areas of the County, with buffering as needed adjacent to more urban areas.
- A sense of “place” and community identity in distinct communities where residents may choose to remain in unincorporated neighborhoods.
- Housing in a variety of styles, densities and price ranges.
- Safe neighborhoods with good schools, activities for youth and seniors, and programs for residents of all ages.
- Convenient access to K-12 and higher educational opportunities for all.
- A functional, safe and convenient transportation system including public transit and trails for bicycles, pedestrians and horses.
- Clean air and a reliable clean water supply.
- Growth and development consistent with the maintenance of environmental quality.
- Communities that allow residents and visitors to enjoy the natural and local setting within reasonable limits of infrastructure, service capacities and public health and safety, including fire safety and prevention.
- Preservation of dark night skies in rural areas.

#### **For more information you can contact:**

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- Conservation/preservation of the natural environment which defines and enhances our quality of life.
- Preservation of land and air space serving national defense and cooperative planning with military installations to minimize land use conflicts.

## WHERE WE WORK

As San Bernardino County gains recognition as the crossroads of global, multi-modal transportation and commerce, with an abundance of affordable land and a skilled workforce, more employers will choose to locate facilities here, and the role of our County in the regional economy will continue to grow. At the same time, the local regulatory environment will encourage innovation and free enterprise to provide other economic opportunities for County residents.

### Our vision for the future of the County includes:

- Excellence in public schools and higher education in order to support, enhance and expand the skills of the local work force.
- A vibrant and thriving local economy that spans a variety of industries, services and other sectors, thereby reducing commuting distance to jobs.
- Vocational training programs geared toward supporting local employers.
- Reasonable performance-based rules to encourage home businesses.
- Assistance in the development of small businesses and encouragement of new businesses of all sizes.
- Conservation of mineral resources for responsible productive use by extractive industries.
- Leading the region as a multi-modal transportation hub and spurring economic development through air, rail and highway systems.
- Agriculture as an economic activity in areas where production is viable.
- Expanded access to communications technology and network resources.
- Opportunities for the use of alternative energy sources.

## HOW WE PLAY

The plentiful open space in San Bernardino County serves County residents and attracts people from other areas as they pursue a wide variety of recreational activities: hiking, camping, off-highway vehicle traveling, fishing, horseback riding, star-gazing, winter sports, youth athletics, performing arts and other entertainment. In addition, County residents have regional access to beaches and other attractions in coastal areas.

### Our vision for the future of the County includes:

- Extension, enhancement and increased connectivity of trail systems throughout the County.
- Local parks and recreational amenities throughout the County.
- Expansion of cultural and entertainment opportunities Countywide.
- ~~Continued off-highway recreational opportunities on designated lands, away from population centers and sensitive habitats, with appropriate enforcement.~~
- Recovery and maintenance of multi-use access to public lands, including regional parks, national parks, national forests, state parks, and Bureau of Land Management areas.

